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General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Fifteenth meeting
27-30 May 2014

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods by resolutions 63/111, 65/37 A and 67/78. Pursuant to paragraph 270 of resolution 68/70, a further review of the effectiveness and utility of the Consultative Process will be undertaken by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 March 2014, the Co-Chairs, Don MacKay (New Zealand) and Milan J. N. Meetarbhan (Mauritius), have developed a format for the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Consultative Process (see annex I) and have proposed a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The role of seafood in global food security" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider, in particular by reference to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (to be issued as A/69/71).

4. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the fifteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the fifteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed a draft agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The draft agenda takes into account paragraphs 266, 268 and 274 of General Assembly resolution 68/70. The fifteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 274 of resolution 68/70, the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the role of seafood in global food security. On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the fifteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Tuesday, 27 May 2014 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the fifteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the fifteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that during the general exchange of views delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the fifteenth meeting, "The role of seafood in global food security".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel

The role of seafood in global food security

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

Segment 1
Understanding global food security and the current role of seafood therein

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

[a] All sessions will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 2
The role of seafood in global food security in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 28 May 2014 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2 (continued)
The role of seafood in global food security in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Segment 3
Opportunities and challenges for the future role of seafood in global food security

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 3 (continued)
Opportunities and challenges for the future role of seafood in global food security

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 29 May 2014 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/70, UN-Oceans, upon request from the General Assembly, will report to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Consultative Process. The United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea will represent UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the General Assembly. UN-Oceans will post its annual report to the Consultative Process on the UN-Oceans website.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

8. The Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 268 of resolution 68/70, that the "Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea".

Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

9. The Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of part C of the reports on the work of the Consultative Process from its fourth to fourteenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120 and A/68/159). The Co-Chairs will inform the Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the fifteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly.

3-6 p.m.[a]

[*Reserved*]

Friday, 30 May 2014 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

10. The Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the draft format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. The outcome will further include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The role of seafood in global food security"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided, in paragraph 274 of resolution 68/70 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, at its fifteenth meeting the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the role of seafood in global food security. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/71) provides background information for the discussion panel on "The role of seafood in global food security".

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 68/70, recognized the role of the Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. The Assembly also recognized the primary role of the Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is therefore proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) *Understanding global food security and the current role of seafood therein*

4. This panel segment could elaborate on the concept of food security and provide information on the state of global food security. It could also provide scientific and technical information on the nutritional importance of various types of seafood that contribute to global food security.

(b) *The role of seafood in global food security in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development*

5. This panel segment could consider the economic, social and environmental aspects of the current role of seafood, including that of the seafood industry, in global food security. In this context, the panel segment could also draw attention to the pressures on the availability and utilization of seafood as food, in food production, and as a source of revenue, and their impact on global food security.

(c) Opportunities and challenges for the future role of seafood in global food security

6. This panel segment could provide various perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for the future role of seafood in global food security. The panel could: highlight the importance of mainstreaming seafood into global, regional and national measures on food security; consider human activities that impact the productivity of marine ecosystems and the safety of seafood, and management of such activities; underline the need for improved fisheries statistics; draw attention to potential innovations in seafood production; underscore the potential roles of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries in global food security; and consider post-harvest processing, distribution and marketing. Issues related to capacity-building and technology transfer, as well as cooperation and coordination, would be integrated throughout the panel segment.